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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/573,144 | 10/13/2006 | Jan Stifter | MEISS71.027APC | 3158 |
| 20995 | 7590 | 05/14/2009 | EXAMINER | |
| KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP | | | BLATT, ERIC D | |
| 2040 MAIN STREET | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| FOURTEENTH FLOOR | | | 3734 | |
| IRVINE, CA 92614 | | | | |
| | | NOTIFICATION DATE | | DELIVERY MODE |
| | | 05/14/2009 | | ELECTRONIC |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

jcartee@kmob.com
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| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/573,144 | STIFTER ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Eric Blatt | 3734 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 11-17 and 27-40 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11-17 and 27-40 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3-22-2006; 7-21-2006; 9-30-2008; 4-13-2009.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 11-17 and 27-40, in the reply filed on 1-12-2009 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-17 objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 12-17 depend either directly or indirectly from a "claim 0" that is not found in the claim listing. For present purposes of examination, recitations of "claim 0" will be understood to refer to claim 11 as these claims were originally presented in the amendment filed March 22, 2006. Appropriate correction is required.

Applicant is also reminded of the proper manner of amending claims and status identifiers.

37 CFR 1.121 (c) Claims . Amendments to a claim must be made by rewriting the entire claim with all changes (e.g., additions and deletions) as indicated in this subsection, except when the claim is being canceled. Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of an existing claim or addition of a new claim, must include a complete listing of all claims ever presented, including the text of all pending and withdrawn claims, in the application. The claim listing, including the text of the claims, in the amendment document will serve to replace all prior versions of the claims, in the application. In the claim listing, the status of every claim must be indicated after its claim number by using one of the following identifiers in a parenthetical expression: (Original), (Currently amended), (Canceled), (Withdrawn), (Previously presented), (New), and (Not entered).

(1) Claim listing. All of the claims presented in a claim listing shall be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive claims having the same status of "canceled" or "not entered" may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1 –5 (canceled)). The claim listing shall commence on a separate sheet of the amendment

document and the sheet(s) that contain the text of any part of the claims shall not contain any other part of the amendment.

(2) When claim text with markings is required. All claims being currently amended in an amendment paper shall be presented in the claim listing, indicate a status of "currently amended," and be submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version of the claims. The text of any added subject matter must be shown by underlining the added text. The text of any deleted matter must be shown by strike-through except that double brackets placed before and after the deleted characters may be used to show deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters. The text of any deleted subject matter must be shown by being placed within double brackets if strike-through cannot be easily perceived. Only claims having the status of "currently amended," or "withdrawn" if also being amended, shall include markings. If a withdrawn claim is currently amended, its status in the claim listing may be identified as "withdrawn — currently amended."

(3) When claim text in clean version is required. The text of all pending claims not being currently amended shall be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings in the presentation of text. The presentation of a clean version of any claim having the status of "original," "withdrawn" or "previously presented" will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version, except to omit markings that may have been present in the immediate prior version of the claims of the status of "withdrawn" or "previously presented." Any claim added by amendment must be indicated with the status of "new" and presented in clean version, i.e., without any underlining.

(4) When claim text shall not be presented; canceling a claim.

(i) No claim text shall be presented for any claim in the claim listing with the status of "canceled" or "not entered."

(ii) Cancellation of a claim shall be effected by an instruction to cancel a particular claim number. Identifying the status of a claim in the claim listing as "canceled" will constitute an instruction to cancel the claim.

(5) Reinstatement of previously canceled claim. A claim which was previously canceled may be reinstated only by adding the claim as a "new" claim with a new claim number.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 11, 13-15, 17, 34, 36, 37 and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (US 2004/0030237).

Lee discloses bone-fixed locator (Figure 5) comprising a linear body 513 having 2 markers/transmitters 512 configured to communicate a signal to a camera 136 (Figure 1), and an engagement portion 500 for engagement with a bone of a mammal. The engagement portion and markers extend along a pivot axis of the body, and upon pivoting the body, the markers will pivot about said pivot axis. The transmitter elements 512 comprise retro-reflecting spheres. (See Abstract)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 12, 16, 35 and 39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US 2004/0030237).

Regarding claims 12 and 35, Lee discloses that the engagement portion comprises a self-tapping thread, but does not discuss using a self-drilling thread. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the engagement portion comprise a self-drilling thread in order to allow the engagement portion to be placed in bone without requiring a pilot hole to be drilled since

such threads were well known in the art and this modification would not have produced unexpected results.

Regarding claims 16 and 39, Lee discloses using the locator assembly in combination with a camera, but does not discuss using a stereo-camera arrangement. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the optical recording device comprise a stereo-camera arrangement since such arrangements were well known and their provision would have allowed accurate 3-dimensional measurements of the marker locations to be taken.

Claims 27-33 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (US 2004/0030237) in view of Sarin et al. (US 2003/0153829).

Lee teaches all elements of said claims as previously discussed except for the body being substantially L-shaped. The markers in the Lee patent are provided along the length of the body such that the body is substantially linear. Sarin teaches that markers may instead be positioned along a side of a body (Figure 3) such that the body comprises at least one L-shape. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Lee by providing the markers such that they extend sideways from the body since Sarin teaches that this was a known alternative and use of this configuration would not have produced unexpected results. Upon making this modification, the modified body of the Lee device would comprise at least one L-shape.

Regarding claim 28, Lee discloses that the engagement portion comprises a self-tapping thread, but does not discuss using a self-drilling thread. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the engagement portion comprise a self-drilling thread in order to allow the engagement portion to be placed in bone without requiring a pilot hole to be drilled since such threads were well known in the art and this modification would not have produced unexpected results.

Regarding claim 32, Lee discloses using the locator assembly in combination with a camera, but does not discuss using a stereo-camera arrangement. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have the optical recording device comprise a stereo-camera arrangement since such arrangements were well known and their provision would have allowed accurate 3-dimensional measurements of the marker locations to be taken.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Blatt whose telephone number is (571)272-9735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Eric Blatt/
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734